

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The drawings were objected to, stating that steps (4) and (5) in Figure 1 were not referred to in the specification. Responsively, the specification has been amended on page 14.

The claims were objected to; however, applicant understands that the claims need not be renumbered. Applicant appreciates that any future claims added should be consistent with the reminder given by the Official Action.

Claim 7 was rejected under §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The term "reply repetitive" was said to be unclear. The specification and claim have been amended so as to remedy the stated basis of rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the first paragraph rejection is solicited.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 stand rejected as anticipated by FERNANDEZ, WO 99/65256.

Claim 10 stands rejected as anticipated by NELSON 6,061,718.

Claims 5, 12 and 18 stand rejected as anticipated by SCANNELL et al. 5,377,354.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9 and 16 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ in view of SCANNELL et al.

Claim 13 stands rejected as being obvious over SCANNELL et al. in view of FERNANDEZ.

Claims 20, 22, 25 and 26 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ in view of CHONG et al. 5,497,319.

Claims 21, 23, 27 and 28 stand rejected as obvious over FERNANDEZ and SCANNELL et al. in view of CHONG et al.

Claim 24 stands rejected as obvious over SCANNELL et al. in view of CHONG et al.

Claim 29 stands rejected as obvious over NELSON in view of CHONG et al.

The independent claims have been amended to clarify the analysis means consistent with the teachings of the application, e.g., an analysis means for reading the received electronic mail and for carrying out a keyword analysis of the readout electronic mail on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of a message portion of the electronic mail, the analysis means selectively shortening the message portion to retain text corresponding to the registered keywords and to leave out words not corresponding to the registered keywords. The text of the recitation may vary from claim to claim.

In this regard, none of the applied references teach or suggest this feature. The most relevant rejection appears to be as to claim 13.

Claim 13 recited the steps of i) carrying out a keyword analysis of the rearranged electronic mail stored in the receive mail box on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of the electronic mail; and ii) storing the short text of the electronic mail after the keyword analysis.

The part of the claim to focus on is "...on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of the electronic mail;".

SCANNELL et al. make no teaching as to using previously

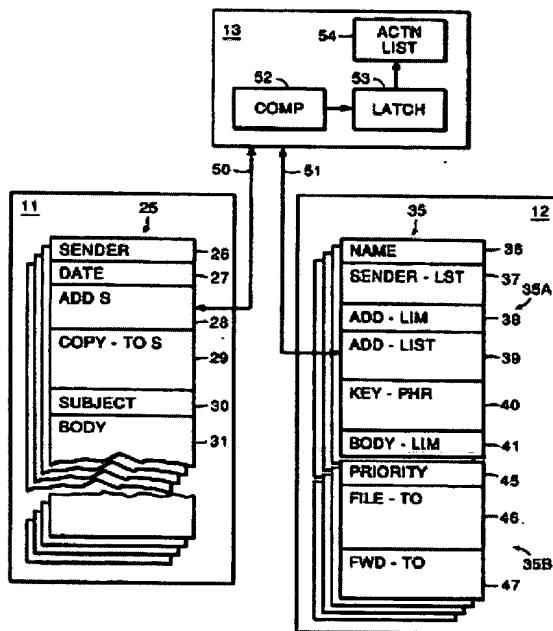


FIG. 2

registered keywords as a basis for obtaining a short text of the electronic mail. Concerning "keyword" analysis, SCANNELL et al. Figure 2 illustrates:

The passage offered by the Official Action (column 7, line 30 - column 8, line 19) discloses that the message storage units 25 and the rules storage units 35 are coupled to the rules test unit 13 which select the various fields in succession. Corresponding fields are fed to a comparator unit 52 which makes comparisons of successive pairs of fields, and which is coupled to a latch unit 53 which stores the results (both intermediate and final) of the comparisons.

Comparator 52 first matches the sender field 26 with the addresses in the sender-list field 37. If there is no match, the comparison with that rule is immediately terminated.

"Then the subject and body fields 30 and 31 are matched against the keyphrases field 40, under the control of the keyphrase zone-limit field 41. The keyphrases field may contain a number of keyphrases, each of which is made up of keywords which are treated as character strings for matching purposes. The keywords may be combined in logical combinations in the keyphrases. The comparator 52 first matches the individual keywords, and then evaluates the logical combinations to determine whether the keyphrase is satisfied."

"Some of the fields in a rule may be left empty; such fields are in general treated as automatic matches. For example, if the sender-list field 37 is left empty, that field will be treated as matching all senders. Thus a rule can operate only on senders, only on keyphrase, or on both in combination."

The teaching of SCANNELL et al. is to filter and act based on keyphrases. There is no teaching concerning "...on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of the electronic mail;".

For this teaching FERNANDEZ is offered, specifically, page 5, lines 1-15.

FERNANDEZ teaches "a system for delivering notification of e-mail ... [with] account deliver options The e-mail messages ... are in a 'summarized' form consistent with the message length limit and typically small display of a phone. [The e-mail message includes] some basic information about the messages such as the identity of the sender, ... and a truncated version of the main text."

So, FERNANDEZ also teaches filtering e-mail messages and sending a "summarized form" of the e-mail with a truncated version of the main text.

The claim 13 recitation, "...on the basis of keywords previously registered by the receiver to obtain a short text of the electronic mail;" would need to be read onto the combination of SCANNELL et al. and FERNANDEZ as meaning that keywords previously registered served as a filter to select an e-mail for forwarding as a "summarized form" of the e-mail with a truncated version of the main text.

There is no teaching found that provides that the text of the email is shortened into a short text, using the registered keywords as the basis for shortening.

For example, there is no teaching of retaining text portions of the e-mail that include registered words relating to dates, place names, proper names and individually set particular terms, and group keywords including an occupation, an occupational type and an age group of an electronic mail sender and receiver (claim 3).

See also specification page 14, disclosing, with reference to application Figure 3, that the keyword analysis server 9 refers to the keyword database 12 storing predetermined group keywords and individual keywords and deletes some inessential words from the received e-mail while leaving the keywords, for example, dates, place names, spots, proper names and individually set particular terms such as "above-captioned case, have studied, your company, proposal, accept, contract, various conditions, qualified person, attend and so on" to prepare a short text 18. The keyword analysis server 9 then outputs the prepared short text 18 as a keyword analyzed e-mail 17.

Thus, the invention provides a means for shortening the e-mail text such that important, i.e., registered keywords, remain in the shortened text and non-essential words are left out of the shortened text.

The claims having been amended to recite the analysis means whereby the text message portion of an e-mail is shortened to retain text corresponding to keywords while leaving out non-essential words not corresponding to such keywords, the claims are believed to be patentable. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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